RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, NEUCHATEL - QUARTERLY REPORT

DIVISION : EDP SUPPORT

SUBJECT TITLE : COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

PERIOD COVERED : OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1988

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KEYWORDS : COLDAC, electronic agenda, quality audit, TLS, data base, cigarette modelling, simulation, TLA sample control, CIR applications.

CICS-2 for R&D

CICS-2 has been defined and implemented as the R&D production system. The CSP environment has been installed, and the new implementations of the Project-Cost/Rebilling system, TLA and TQA applications were put into production under CICS-2. Other strictly R&D applications will be moved from CICS-1 to CICS-2 as modifications or updates as required. We (R&D) will begin to exercise more and more independent control of this environment (relying less on FTR) during 1989 and especially as our applications are converted to the European Data Center.

CSP = CROSS SYSTEM PRODUCT (IBM)

The development environment, philosophy and procedures for CICS-test, application archiving, and "transfer-into-production" were defined. These were coordinated with FTR and with the EDC in order to conform as much as possible to current and planned procedures. R&D will continue to use CSP for all new applications and for major modifications of current applications written in UFO or COBOL. Overall experience with this product has been relatively positive.

TLA - TOBACCO LOT ANALYSIS / TQA - TOBACCO QUALITY AUDIT

The re-implementation of the TLA application, and the definition and implementation of the TQA application were completed, transferred into production, documentation completed, and users trained. Only a few minor problems were encountered, which were quickly resolved.

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PROJECT-COST / REBILLING APPLICATION

This entire application has been re-written in CSP. Modifications and enhancements were made as required by the users. Transfer into production required development of new procedures for CSP generated applications. These were coordinated with FTR and the European Data Center Group in Lausanne.

A FOCUS data base, with appropriate loading procedures, has been put in place. This was utilized to analyze all of the data for 1988 and generate the required management reports. The user department responsible for the application will be trained on FOCUS during 1st quarter 1989.

CIR = CIGARETTE INFORMATION REPORT

A FOCUS data base, with appropriate loading procedures, has been put in place. The principal user is fully trained on use of FOCUS and able to work independently. Training for users in other departments, notably the Product Development Group, is now in progress.

NON-TOBACCO MATERIAL INSPECTION

Work on this application has progressed much more slowly than planned during the quarter. The initial portion of the system is close to ready for the users. It is however now clear that we need a significant amount of dedicated assistance from the user department to evaluate and control the procedures that we have developed, evaluate with us when and how this should be made available to users, and help define the remaining problem areas. This re-organization of the implementation strategy is in principle agreed to by the user management and details will be worked out in January.

SMOKING LAB / QC AUTOMATION

Hardware configuration of the DEC/Vax system software, Beckman CALS application environment, and general LAN and Ethernet network links between all systems and terminals/instruments for development is defined and in place.

We are progressing well, with support and assistance from the users side, on definition of the required dictionaries (samples, tests, screens, and calculation procedures). Additional training courses from Beckman have been followed by our MIS staff and by the Smoking Lab supervisors who are involved in this project. Coordination and communication with Holland, Munich and Lausanne

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continues with benefits to all concerned. A visit was also made to the TLA group in Richmond to exchange experiences and establish a working relationship for future opportunities to benefit from our mutual experiences.

Additional modifications and extensions have been made to the PC-based TETA (Technicon Tobacco Analysis) workstation, primarily to satisfy the needs of Holland. This system is now documented (user and system level) and in routine use in PMH.

Standard RS-232 output digital voltmeters for instruments like the CO/NO workstation have been selected, evaluated and received. Work on making this CO/NO workstation operational with a Beckman Digimetry controller will be scheduled for January/February. This will liberate a "spare" HP-Datacap controller for us and the workstation will be made available to Holland and Munich.

Extension of the Ungermann-Bass Net-One LAN to the Smoking Lab areas is still awaiting final decision and approval for renovations to that building. The trunk cable has been pulled close to the areas required, with sufficient taps to cover our requirements. Network interface units are on hand.

COLDAC SMOKING LABORATORY SYSTEM

The frequency of hardware problems on the old HP/COLDAC system continues to increase. We are very often confronted with long repair times from HP due to lack of competence with these old systems and/or lack of available spare parts. We are trying to maintain the optic of minimum investment in this system in order to conserve resources for development of the new replacement system.

Changes were made to the TLA sample introduction, processing, and output of results to the IBM system in order to increase the Lot number from 4 to 5 positions. Additional cleanup of other identification information for TLA lots was made at the same time (grade, due date, crop-year/sequence, etc.)

Modifications were made to the procedures which control transfer of final sample results to the IBM system. These were required in order to make the distinction between an analytical result of zero and a missing/non-analyzed result more clear.

HARDWARE/SOFTWARE - INSTALLED/ORDERED

8 IBM-3192-G (Graphics) terminals received; 5 installed
8 IBM-PS/2 Systems received; 5 installed
2 IBM-3812 Laser printers ordered

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PROFS TRAINING

Two additional users were trained during this period. There are now 78 "userids" and 91 "nicknames" in R&D.

DATA RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Work continues slowly on this revision of the PME Reference-of-Codes. Input has been created for definition of the Cigarette Code chapter of this system and a preliminary file sent to Lausanne for review. Requests to modify the structure of this file was received. Loading of this section of the data base will be done from R&D information in January.

CDB - CIGARETTE DATA BANK

All of the modifications planned for Phase-1 of the update of the Cigarette Data Bank application have been made and put into production (redefinition of screen images, suppression of some data items, and addition of some additional fields. Phase-2, replacement of APLDI by FOCUS procedures for ad-hoc query of the data base is well under way. Required data items have been defined with the responsible project leaders and an initial group of users have followed a FOCUS training course. Structure on the FOCUS data base, procedures for loading, and "prototype" query procedures will be tackled in January with the users. Phase-3 modifications (replacement of the DL/1 data base and inclusion of capabilities to monitor and manage materials) will be defined in conjunction with transfer of this application to the EDC and with progress on the Incoming Materials project during 1989.

CIM - CIGARETTE-INSPECTION-MODULE EVALUATION

Assisted with the final analysis and writing of the final report on the evaluation of this device. Results to be presented to top management in Lausanne in December.

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